V. THE JEWISH TRIAL. MARK 14:32-42

Jesus's alleged words about erecting a new Temple (14:32-42) could have been heard as a claim to Messiahship (*2 Samuel* 7:13; *Zechariah* 6:12). Jesus expresses his claim in words based on *Psalms* 110:1 and *Daniel* 7:13. The title "Son of Man" implied possession of the total power of God; it was tantamount to blasphemy. The penalty for blasphemy was stoning (*Leviticus* 24:16). (In the *Acts of the Apostles* it is recorded that Stephen was stoned for the same crime.) The Jews could not carry this penalty out because the Romans reserved the death penalty for their own use. The Sanhedrin, therefore, had a problem: they could agree on a charge against Jesus, but they could not carry out the sentence. So they had to get him before the Roman authorities and pin something else on him there - something the Romans would be interested in. Meanwhile they started to mock him. If Jesus was a great prophet, then he would have supernatural knowledge. Therefore, when he was blindfolded, and they started to rain blows on him, he would be able to guess who was hitting him. This was meant to be a cruel joke at his expense.

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